

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, January 14, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of December 10, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

Broadband Update

Broadband progress was updated by MLP Manager Kimberly Longey. More than half of the construction is complete with anticipated completion by the end of April. White Mountain Construction costs have been contained and overall costs are trending lower than anticipated. Police detail costs are over budget due to the need for state police and officers from other towns. The \$500 per drop incentive grant of \$138,000 has been awarded and will be distributed at project completion. The 2015 \$1,130,000 borrowing authorization has been utilized. It is estimated \$138,000 of the 2019 \$400,000 authorization will be needed.

Verizon and Eversource have yet to complete pole upgrades. Winton asked if anyone will follow up with Verizon on service to those who are remaining with them. Kimberly stated the Department of Telecommunications and Cable and the Department of Public Utilities oversee public utilities.

The Town will be responsible for pole insurance after the construction phase is completed. Kimberly noted the PURMA deductible for pole damage is \$20,000.

Grants

Plainfield has been awarded an MVP Action Grant in the amount of \$33,550 the total project cost being \$44,975 with Plainfield contributing \$9,475 with in-kind services and a \$1,950 cash match; A Community Compact IT Grant in the amount of \$41,370 has also been awarded. Documents for both grants were signed; IT Grant documents are to be held pending discussion on the scope of services at the next meeting.

In the next week Howard will submit an application for the PVPC District Local Services Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant. Local Technical Assistance (LTA) is a separate PVPC program through which towns are offered a few hours of technical assistance.)

MPG

A meeting of the MPG and other interested board and committee members has been scheduled for January 29th to review strategies, etc. Plainfield's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is in the revision process.

Job Descriptions

A letter will accompany the distribution of job descriptions informing employees a Select Board member will schedule a meeting with them to review their job descriptions.

2020 License Renewals

Winton moved to renew the Class II and Class III licenses for 2020 for Edward Morann d/b/a Ed's Auto Repair and Robert Sadowski d/b/a Plainfield Motors and to renew the Class II license for Jamie Wooldridge d/b/a Central Farm and Garage. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved.

Resignation

Ann Kohn's resignation from the Council on Aging was accepted with regret and appreciation.

Other Business

Use of Town Counsel was discussed. It is the consensus of the Board the chair may approve Town Council use by boards and committees in order to expedite requests. The MRF recycling Contract was signed and will be held per recommendation of Kathleen Casey, HRMC Administrator.

The Board received an application to Smith Vocational for the school year beginning September 2020.

The CDBG Grant signature page was completed by the chair and will be returned to HCDC.

FY'21 budget request forms were received. Howard submitted a draft for the town's annual report.

Howard moved to support special legislation for death benefits for the survivors of former Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. The approved motion of support will be forwarded to the offices of Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Natalie Blais.

Correspondence

Notices of 2020 APR listening sessions and Rural School Aid meetings were received from Sen. Hinds.

Lily Wallace, Legislative Aide to Rep. N. Blais, reached out to the Select Board

chairs of Worthington, Cummington, and Plainfield about the possibility of a joint meeting in advance of the state budget.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary